

*East Elloe
Rural District Council*



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Sanitary Inspector
for the
Year 1951

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. MILLER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

W. B. HITCHINGS, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

L. H. MOTLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk :

D. M. TAYLOR

East Elloe Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Councillor H. L. NEAVERSON.

Members :

Councillor R. G. BARWELL.

„ F. BAXTER.
„ Rev. C. V. BROWNE-WILKINSON.
„ J. W. COOPER.
„ W. D. CURTIS (Deceased, Sept 1951).
„ J. CUTHBERT.
„ T. FINES.
„ H. W. FARROW, J.P.
„ S. GARNER.
„ A. GREEN (From 11/10/51).
„ N. A. GRIMWOOD.
„ C. HESKETH.
„ A. G. HOWLETT.
„ Mrs. A. H. S. HUNTER.
„ A. G. LENTON, J.P.
„ J. MUNSON.
„ C. I. PATCHETT.
„ H. PIGGINS.
„ T. H. ROSE.
„ C. ROWELL.
„ T. W. SELBY.
„ A. D. TEMPLE.
„ R. WESTON.
„ A. WHITE.



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East Elloe Rural District Council,
Mattimore House,
Holbeach.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1951

To the Chairman and Members of
The East Elloe Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my annual report for the year 1951.

The health of the District remains fairly satisfactory. The high death rate from cancer continues to present an ever increasing problem and it is to be hoped that research which is at present proceeding will provide the knowledge to enable it's occurrence to be limited. The British Empire Cancer Research Campaign is dependent on voluntary subscriptions for funds and truly merits the support of us all.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RAYMOND MILLER,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is (acres) 84,597

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year
Home Population figure (used in the calcu-
lation of the birth and death rates) is ... 22,970

Rateable value, 1st April, 1952 £71,090

Sum represented by 1d. rate £270 14s. 10.102d.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate books is 7,004 and is distributed as follows :

| Parish | Total Houses | Est. Pop. | Area in Acres |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Fleet | 430 | 1410 | 6,837 |
| Gedney | 686 | 2250 | 11,679 |
| Gedney Hill | 119 | 390 | 1,865 |
| Lutton | 272 | 892 | 3,793 |
| Sutton St. Edmund | 168 | 551 | 4,670 |
| Sutton St. James | 208 | 682 | 2,707 |
| Little Sutton | 46 | 151 | 743 |
| Tydd St. Mary | 276 | 905 | 4,637 |
| Whaplode | 563 | 1846 | } 10,688 |
| Whaplode Drove | 249 | 817 | |
| Wingland | 96 | 315 | 4,217 |
| Holbeach | 2063 | 6766 | 22,666 |
| Long Sutton | 931 | 3053 | 3,931 |
| Sutton Bridge | 897 | 2942 | 6,164 |
| Totals | 7004 | 22970 | 84,597 |

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

| | Male | Female | Total |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 199 | 157 | 356 |
| Illegitimate | 7 | 10 | 17 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Live Births | 206 | 167 | 373 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Adjusted Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated Mid-Year Home
Population 17.54

Still Births

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Illegitimate | 2 | — | 2 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Still Births | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births 28.65

Deaths

| Male | Female | Total |
|------|--------|-------|
| 148 | 103 | 251 |

Adjusted Death rate per 1,000 of estimated Mid-Year Home
Population 10.38

Maternal Mortality.

Deaths from pregnancy, child birth and abortion 1
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) births 2.60

Infantile Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | — | 1 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Death of infants under 4 weeks of age :

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32.17 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30.90 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58.82 |

Death Rates of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18.77 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19.66 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.00 |

Deaths from :

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Cancer | 21 | 14 | 35 |
| Measles | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | — | — |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | — | — | — |

Comments on Vital Statistics.

| | E.E.R.D.C. | England & Wales |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Birth Rate (Live Births) | 17.54 | 15.5 |
| Death Rate (all causes) | 10.38 | 12.5 |
| Death Rate of infants under 1 year | 32.17 | 29.6 |

The vital statistics reveal that a fairly satisfactory level of health is being maintained in the District.

Cancer presents a serious problem and one to which our preventive service can supply very little assistance in the present state of medical knowledge. It is to be hoped that research will throw more light on the cause or causes so that steps to avert it may be taken.

NUMBERS OF DEATHS FROM PARTICULAR CAUSES

IN EAST ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT IN 1951.

| Cause of Death | | | | | | Male | Female | Total |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|-------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | — | 3 |
| Tuberculosis, other forms | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Syphilitic disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Meningococcal infections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | — | 4 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 4 | 4 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 15 | 26 |
| Coronary disease, angina | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 | 5 | 21 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| Other heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 | 21 | 40 |
| Other circulatory disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 6 | 20 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital malformation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Other defined and ill defined diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 | 24 | 49 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| All other accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Homicide and operations of war | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — |
| Totals | | | | | | 148 | 103 | 251 |

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Excluding cases of Tuberculosis, which are dealt with separately, 221 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year.

| Disease | No. of Cases. |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 16 |
| Whooping Cough | 103 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) | 2 |
| Measles | 62 |
| Diphtheria | — |
| Pneumonia | 14 |
| Dysentery | 7 |
| Erysipelas | 12 |
| Food Poisoning | 3 |
| Meningococcal Infection | 1 |
| Malaria | 1 |
| Total | 221 |

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease under Age Groups.

| Disease | Age Group in years | | | | | | | | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| | Under 1 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-24 | 25 & over | Not known | |
| Scarlet Fever | — | 3 | 7 | 5 | — | 1 | — | — | 16 |
| Whooping Cough | 14 | 21 | 28 | 36 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 103 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis (paralytic) | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Measles | 1 | 12 | 15 | 30 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 62 |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 9 | 1 | 14 |
| Dysentery | — | — | 1 | 4 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Erysipelas | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 4 | 6 | 12 |
| Food Poisoning ... | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | 3 |
| Meningococcal Infection ... | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Malaria | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |

COMMENTS :

1. **Poliomyelitis.**

Two cases occurred in this district during the year. The department concentrates on two lines of action and attempts to insure (a) prompt isolation of cases and (b) prevention of carriage of disease by insects.

Research has not yet provided means by which the healthy carrier can be detected.

2. **Dysentery.**

Seven cases occurred during the year and were all due to *B. dysenteriae* Sonne. In all cases a thorough investigation was carried out and all possible precautions were taken to prevent the occurrence of further cases.

3. **Cerebrospinal Fever.**

Investigations which followed the occurrence of a case of meningitis revealed one carrier of the meningococcus. Treatment was continued until laboratory tests showed that infection had been eliminated.

4. **Whooping Cough.**

Plans have been made by Dr. Fielding, the County Medical Officer of Health, to enable whooping cough immunisation to be provided on the same lines as diphtheria immunisation. It is hoped that this will commence in 1952, and that the incidence of this dangerous and distressing illness may be greatly reduced.

5. **Diphtheria.**

It is satisfactory to note that the district remains free from Diphtheria but this satisfactory state of affairs tends to encourage parents to neglect having their children immunised. If this attitude continues then Diphtheria will undoubtedly recur amongst the unprotected.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

During 1951, 277 children under 5 years of age and 17 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years were immunised against diphtheria.

A further 361 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years were given a " Booster " or secondary injection.

The work is carried out by the medical staff of the Holland County Council Health Department in Infant Welfare Centres and in the Schools, and by medical practitioners.

The figures provided by the County Medical Officer of Health show that in this District :

52.7% of all children under 5 years and 77.2% of all children aged 5 to 14 years had been immunised by the 31st December, 1951.

Corresponding figures for the County as a whole are :

57.8% of all children under 5 years.

77.9% of all children aged 5 to 14 years.

6. Puerperal Pyrexia.

No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia occurred during the year. This may have been due to the fact that no definite standards were laid down. Since the 1st August, 1951, any febrile condition occurring in a woman in whom a temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit (38° Centigrade) or more has occurred within fourteen days after childbirth or miscarriage must be notified.

7. Leprosy.

On June 22nd 1951 Leprosy was made notifiable.

TUBERCULOSIS

| | | M. | F. | T'l. |
|--|----------------------|----|----|------|
| Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/51. | Pulmonary | 32 | 25 | 57 |
| | Non-Pulmonary | 12 | 10 | 22 |
| Cases removed from the Register during 1951. | Pulmonary | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| | Non-Pulmonary | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Cases added to the Register during 1951. | Pulmonary | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| | Non-Pulmonary | 3 | 2 | 5 |

The total number of cases on the Register at 31/12/51 was 79, a **decrease** of 11 on last years figure of 90.

12 cases were added to the Register during the year and 23 cases were removed. Of the 23 removals, 10 were due to death, 8 were cured and 5 persons left the district.

COMMENTS :

It is satisfactory to note that the total number of cases on the Register has decreased by 11 since last year. In the following table an analysis is given of the number of new cases of tuberculosis and of the number of deaths in the various age groups.

Analysis of new cases and deaths during 1951.

| Age Period | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non Pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 5 ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5—15 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15—25 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 25—35 | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| 35—45 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — |
| 45—55 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 55—65 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 65 & over ... | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Totals | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 2 | — |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The following arrangements have not been altered since 1950 :

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

Public Health investigations are carried out at Lincoln and Peterborough Public Health Laboratories. The Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln carries out bacteriological and blood examinations. The Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough carries out water, milk and ice cream examinations.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

An efficient and comprehensive service is maintained by the Transport Department of the County Council.

(c) **Home Nursing.**

A home nursing service is provided by the County Council.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Services.**

Infant Welfare Centres and Anti-natal clinics are provided by the County Council at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

(e) **School Medical Inspection.**

All school children in this district have a thorough medical examination on :

(1) first attending school

(2) at 9—10 years of age

and (3) in their final year at school.

By this means many defects are detected and the child referred to the appropriate specialist for treatment, and when necessary, a recommendation is made regarding suitable employment on leaving school.

(f) **Hospitals.**

The Holbeach Hospital, is a general practitioners' hospital.

(g) **Scabies.**

The joint scheme set up in 1943 was wound up in March, 1951. Any cases which may occur can now receive the necessary materials for self treatment under the National Health Scheme.

(h) **National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.**

Three cases coming within the scope of this Act were dealt with during the year. No legal proceedings were necessary and arrangements were made voluntarily.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Social Conditions.

The bulk of the adult male population is engaged in agricultural work. Sugar beet, potatoes, bulbs, flowers and fruit provide seasonal employment for a large proportion of the adult female population.

Flour milling, canning of fruit and vegetables, agricultural implement manufacture and timber works all provide employment in the area.

Water Supply :

I am indebted to Mr. H. Rippin, the Council's Water Engineer for the comprehensive statistical details included in this section of the Report.

The Spalding Urban District Council continue to supply the Council with water in bulk from their source of supply at Bourne. It is delivered into an elevated water tower at Weston from which it is pumped for distribution throughout the area. Two other elevated towers situate at Little Sutton and Holbeach Drove operate as either feed or balancing tanks.

The total water purchased from the Spalding U.D.C. during the year 1951 was 182,477,000 gallons. Bulk supplies were afforded to the Wisbech and District Water Board amounting to 8,105,000 gallons, leaving 174,372,731 gallons as distributed within the area, giving a daily average of 477,731 gallons. Due to the large agricultural and horticultural demand for water, weather conditions cause wide fluctuations in daily consumption.

Of the total number of houses within the area, water is available to 98%.

A new scheme to improve supplies and meet the ever increasing demands has received approval in principle of the Ministry of Local Government and Planning but progress is very slow due to the economic state of the country.

Frequent and regular samples of the water are taken at the source by the Spalding U.D.C. and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examinations and a similar procedure is adopted within the East Elloe area by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

A chemical analysis of a sample of mains water taken from a house tap at Southeau Bank, Gedney Hill, on the 19th March, 1951 gave the following results :

Chemical results in parts per million.

Appearance : Bright with very few mineral particles.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-------|------|-----------|--------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | Turbidity | Less than 3 |
| Colour | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil | Odour | Nil |
| Reaction | pH | ... | ... | ... | 7.4 | Free Co2 | 13 |
| Electric Conductivity | | ... | ... | ... | 620 | Total Solids | 415 |
| Chlorine as Chlorides | | ... | ... | ... | 19 | Alkilinity as CaCo3 | 235 |
| Hardness : | | Total | 335. | Carbonate | 235. | Non-carbonate | 100 |
| Nitrate Nitrogen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.0 | Nitrite Nitrogen ... | Less than 0.01 |
| Free Ammonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.0 | Oxygen absorbed ... | 0.25 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.0 | Residual Chlorine ... | Absent |
| Metals | ... | ... | ... | ... | Absent | | |
| Fluorine : | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.1 | | |

“ This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are consistant with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes apart from the objection that the supply tends to be very hard.”

Reports on the bacteriological examinations of samples of mains water have given without variation the following results :

Probable number of B.Coli MacConkey, 2 days, 37°C,—Nil, per 100 ml. No streptocci found in 10c.c. This water is satisfactory.

The following table indicates for each parish the number of dwelling houses and the approximate population supplied from public water mains, either direct to the house (including houses where the supply is by means of a stand tap placed in the curtilage of the house) or by means of stand pipes fitted to the main and supplying several houses. It also indicates where mains water is available but is not taken and where mains water is not available.

| Parish | MEANS OF SUPPLY. | | | | NOT SUPPLIED | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| | Direct to Houses. | | Standpipes | | Water Available | | No Water Available | |
| | Houses | Population | Houses | Population | Houses | Population | Houses | Population |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Fleet | 385 | 1263 | 1 | 4 | 38 | 124 | 6 | 19 |
| Gedney | 635 | 2083 | 6 | 19 | 24 | 79 | 21 | 69 |
| Gedney Hill | 98 | 321 | 9 | 30 | 8 | 26 | 4 | 13 |
| Lutton | 264 | 866 | — | — | 6 | 18 | 2 | 6 |
| Sutton St. Edmund . | 154 | 505 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 39 | 1 | 3 |
| Sutton St. James ... | 199 | 683 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 20 |
| Little Sutton | 42 | 138 | — | — | 3 | 10 | 1 | 3 |
| Tydd St. Mary | 246 | 807 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 52 | 13 | 43 |
| Whaplode | 488 | 1600 | 4 | 13 | 60 | 197 | 11 | 36 |
| Whaplode Drove ... | 231 | 758 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 43 | 4 | 13 |
| Wingland | 68 | 223 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 33 | 16 | 53 |
| Holbeach | 1939 | 6357 | 5 | 17 | 103 | 339 | 16 | 53 |
| Long Sutton | 840 | 2755 | 1 | 3 | 85 | 279 | 5 | 16 |
| Sutton Bridge | 873 | 2863 | — | — | 23 | 75 | 1 | 4 |
| Totals | 6462 | 21192 | 32 | 105 | 403 | 1322 | 107* | 351 |

* 29 of these houses are supplied by water from undertakings outside this area.

The following sections of the report deal with the work of the Sanitary Inspectors to whom I am indebted for their compilation.

Drainage and Sewerage :

Apart from small plants at the post-war Council Housing Estates and installations at certain Institutions and similar premises there are no public sewerage works.

The recommended system for domestic drainage disposal consisting of an underground sedimentation tank and soakaway is in general use throughout the district. In the great majority of cases it works quite well. However, in the urban parts of the district, many premises have not sufficient room available to install the recommended drainage disposal arrangements and in the past, many have surreptitiously or otherwise, made their drainage discharge into the road surface water drains. As these drains discharge into open dykes the condition of such dykes can well be imagined. Amongst the worst affected are (a) the Holbeach River along Hallgate and Park Road, Holbeach, (b) the drain along Back Lane, Long Sutton and (c) the Westmere drain, Sutton Bridge.

Large numbers of houses at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge are provided with pail closets. This type of sanitation is objectionable for a number of reasons not the least of which is the nuisance to passers-by at collection times. Many other properties have vault type closets. These are also objectionable but there is not the same degree of nuisance when they are being emptied.

Such conservancy methods are most undesirable for they provide a multiplicity of breeding grounds for flies and form ideal foci for the dissemination of fly-borne diseases. In the interests of public health every effort should be made to abolish them particularly in the urbanised parts.

The Council is well aware of the need for better sanitation and sewerage schemes for the Townships of Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge have been prepared and were submitted to the Ministry of Health in 1948 but their approval is still awaited.

Reference can perhaps be made to a problem which may also exist in other areas. Several years ago, when the Council was more optimistic regarding provision of a sewerage scheme, it was felt that persons erecting new houses should be advised to site drainage disposal arrangements at the front of their properties and so facilitate connection to the sewer. However, such siting, which was normally less than 50 feet from the house concerned, did not comply with the Building Byelaws. In consequence permission was sought for the Council to have authority to relax the byelaws in such cases. This permission was refused by the Ministry, which stated that the usual procedure had to be gone through in every

case. As this procedure is both lengthy and costly it is only now resorted to in exceptional cases. In consequence, when public sewers are provided, connection to them is going to be much more costly than it need have been.

It is pleasing to record the considerable improvement that has taken place at most of the hotels and public houses in the district. Practically all have been provided with water closets in place of sanitary pails or vaults. In addition most of the premises are provided with adequate domestic washing arrangements and with washing-up sinks in the bars.

Practically all the post-war Council Housing Estates are provided with sewerage disposal plants and their maintenance is undertaken by the Health Department.

Owing to the flat nature of the district, gravitational sewerage disposal plants are not possible. Consequently all plants have to be provided with some form of pump or ejector equipment to lift the sewerage in order that treatment can be carried out or completed.

Sewerage plants have now been installed at 12 sites and serve approximately 374 houses with an estimated population of 1,500. These sites are spread over the whole area and this factor plus poor electricity supplies in certain outlying districts necessitates considerable maintenance work. Normally two visits are made to each plant each week. One visit for the carrying out of the usual maintenance i.e. cleansing of sump, tank, channels, etc. and the other for checking purposes. Desludging of the plants is carried out at intervals of one, two or three months depending upon the particular type of plant.

Nuisance from smell is found to occur from time to time at certain plants. This is due in part to the close proximity of the disposal plants to dwellings and is aggravated by the need for pumping the sewage. Poplar trees have now been planted around all the installations to act as screens and to help in dissipating and /or directing the sewerage gases upwards.

The offensive odour appears to arise from the settling tanks and experimental chlorination is being carried out in an effort to reduce it.

All drainage and sewerage work carried out in the area is inspected and tested by the Sanitary Inspectors. During the year new drainage systems at 185 premises were inspected and tested together with a large number of new sewers at various Council housing sites.

Public Conveniences :

Satisfactory public conveniences for men and women are provided at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Public Cleansing :

The Health Department is responsible for the collection of domestic and trade refuse, salvage, the emptying of sanitary pails, privy vaults and cesspools, and the disposal of the waste materials. Brief notes are given below on the various sections of the Cleansing Service.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.—A weekly kerbside collection is given to about 3,700 premises in the urban parts of Holbeach, Fleet, Gedney, Long Sutton, Sutton Bridge, Lutton, Gedney Dyke, Holbeach Hurn and Whaplode and to those properties lying on the roads between these villages. Modern side and rear loading vehicles of a large capacity are used for the work.

A similar fortnightly refuse collection covering the remaining rural parts of the area was commenced during the year. This service is working well and is providing a much needed amenity. The disappearance of the unsightly and unauthorised dumps often seen near the rural villages should soon take place provided persons take full advantage of the service.

Disposal of the refuse is by controlled tipping carried out in pits or on low lying land. During the year two large sites were levelled and completed. One is now under cultivation and the other is being extended and prepared as a horticultural exhibition site. A small pit was also filled at Long Sutton at the request of the local Community Association. The land on which the pit was situated is to be used for recreational purposes.

Tipping is now in progress at a site in the Gedney Church End area. This, in accordance with the practice of this department to keep the number of dumps down to a minimum, is the only site being used for the disposal of refuse. The maintenance and supervision that such a single tip can be given far outweighs the increase in mileage necessitated by a central dump.

It is generally recognised that the control of the tips used for refuse disposal is carried out conscientiously and efficiently. In consequence there is no difficulty in obtaining sites and in actual fact the numbers of offers received are often an embarrassment.

(b) Salvage Collection and Disposal.—Salvage, in both urban and rural areas is collected at the same time as the refuse, a trailer being used for the purpose. In addition, special collections are made when the quantities and types of materials require that this should be done.

Owing to the low prices obtained at the beginning of the year rather more sorting of materials was carried out in an effort to increase the revenue. Demand for salvage, however, increased during the year and this demand was reflected in the prices obtained.

Mixed waste paper, for instance, rose in price from £7 15s. per ton in January to £16 per ton in December. Newspapers and magazines at over £24 per ton and brown paper at £30 per ton are other examples of the high prices being paid at the end of the year.

Details are given below of the weights and values of the salvage sold during 1951 :

Materials

| | Tons cwts. qrs. | | | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----|---|-------|----|----|
| Mixed waste paper & cardboard | 184 | 16 | 3 | 2597 | 2 | 4 |
| Textiles | 4 | 10 | 3 | 147 | 1 | 5 |
| Ferrous Metal | 37 | 5 | 0 | 74 | 17 | 3 |
| Non-Ferrous Metal | | 12 | 0 | 31 | 1 | 5 |
| Sundries | 3 | 14 | 3 | 33 | 2 | 7 |
| | <hr/> | | | <hr/> | | |
| Totals | 230 | 19 | 1 | £2883 | 5 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | | <hr/> | | |

It is interesting to compare the 1951 figures with those for previous years. This is done in the table below :

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| During 1940 sales were made to the value of | | | | | | | | | £338 |
| „ | 1941 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £625 |
| „ | 1942 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £1348 |
| „ | 1943 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £1125 |
| „ | 1944 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £852 |
| „ | 1945 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £686 |
| „ | 1946 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £634 |
| „ | 1947 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £805 |
| „ | 1948 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £986 |
| „ | 1949 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £766 |
| „ | 1950 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £1089 |
| „ | 1951 | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | „ | £2883 |

During the twelve years in which salvage work has been carried out in the district, materials to the value of more than £12,000 have been recovered and returned to industry. Salvage was undertaken during the war years to help in the recovery of waste materials. It is pleasing to note that it has also been a very considerable factor in reducing the rates.

(e) Sanitary Pail Collection and Disposal.—A weekly evening collection is made from about 900 premises in the urban parts of Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. While this work is carried out as hygienically as possible by using modern type cesspool emptiers there is inevitably some nuisance particularly to passers-by.

Disposal is by composting in tanks and the resulting manure is used on horticultural land. The product is considered to be of considerable value but the presence of contraries such as glass, razor blades etc., provide a deterrent to its use.

(d) **Cesspool and Vault Emptying.**—The emptying of cesspools and vaults is carried out with modern cesspool emptying vehicles. Privy vaults are emptied free of charge whenever application is made. Cesspools are emptied free of charge provided the period between emptyings exceeds 12 months. A charge is made for the service required at shorter intervals. This charge is based on the time taken for the work and on the time since the previous emptying.

During the year 2,208 vaults and 2,916 cesspools were emptied. This is a considerable increase over the numbers emptied in previous years as the following table illustrates.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|
| During the year 1940 a total of 957 vaults and cesspools were emptied | | | | | | | | | | |
| " | " | " | 1941 | " | " | " | 1370 | " | " | " |
| " | " | " | 1942 | " | " | " | 1540 | " | " | " |
| " | " | " | 1943 | " | " | " | 1590 | " | " | " |
| " | " | " | 1944 | " | " | " | 1927 | " | " | " |
| " | " | " | 1945 | " | " | " | 2098 | " | " | " |
| " | " | " | 1946 | " | " | " | 2291 | " | " | " |
| " | " | " | 1947 | " | " | " | 2761 | " | " | " |
| " | " | " | 1948 | " | " | " | 3550 | " | " | " |
| " | " | " | 1949 | " | " | " | 4021 | " | " | " |
| " | " | " | 1950 | " | " | " | 4646 | " | " | " |
| " | " | " | 1951 | " | " | " | 5124 | " | " | " |

The increasing number of applications whilst providing a problem in themselves, also bring others in their train, not the least of which is that of disposal. The magnitude of this can be visualised when it is realised that during 1951 over 2,000,000 gallons of cesspool and vault contents, etc., had to be disposed of in some way or other. Inevitably and unfortunately the period of maximum demand coincides with the time when disposal is most difficult. Disposal is effected by absorption into the soil and this, as can well be imagined, presents many difficulties particularly when the ground water level or sok is only a foot or so below the ground.

A new system of disposal was tried out during the year. Long, narrow, shallow trenches were constructed at certain refuse dumps and sewage was fed into them via feeder trenches. The system is working well and will deal satisfactorily with normal amounts of sewage. Trouble is however, found to occur during that period of the year when cesspool emptyings are at their peak. The limited areas of trenches and the abnormal amounts of sewage plus the high sok level, prevent proper drying out of the materials at such times. It is felt therefore that consideration will have to be given to the acquiring of further land for trenching purposes.

Possibly some form of cropping will then be introduced. Thought is also being given to the mechanical digging of trenches.

This acquiring of land would have had to have been considered before but for the fact that from early Spring to Autumn considerable quantities of cesspool and vault contents are spread on agricultural land. This is by request of the farmers and it is interesting to note that there is a very considerable increase in the numbers of persons who are prepared to allow their land to be used in this way. In some cases the cesspool and vault contents are put on manure heaps.

There is obviously room for conjecture as to the health aspects of these methods of disposal particularly when grassland is concerned, viz. C. Bovis. Still there does not appear to be any alternative. Discretion is of course excercised over the land used and probably there is less danger than with the conventional sewage farm.

The cesspool emptiers are also used in connection with the desludging of the small sewage disposal plants which are provided at post-war Council Housing Estates. This work now takes a number of hours every week. A similar service is given to sewage plants at institutions and similar premises.

HOUSING

Progress continues to be made in connection with the development of Council Housing Estates. The position at 24th May, 1952 is shown below :

(a) Permanent Houses.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Houses erected under all schemes prior to 1945 ... | 869 |
| Houses completed since 1945 | 410 |
| Houses under erection | 118 |
| Further houses proposed to be erected | 200 |

(b) Temporary bungalows erected at Holbeach and

| | |
|---|----|
| Sutton Bridge | 69 |
| Ex-R.A.F. Hutments converted at Sutton Bridge ... | 42 |

During 1951 the following dwellings were completed :

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| By Council | 67 |
| By private enterprise | 35 |

Overcrowding.—During the year 10 cases of overcrowding were investigated and reported to the Council. Seven of these families were rehoused by the end of the year. Owing to the general shortage of housing accommodation rehousing is only possible in the worst cases.

Applications for Council Houses.—A “ Points ” Scheme is used in the selection of tenants and this is based on a number of factors such as condition of house, size and age of family, illness, service in H.M. Forces, period on waiting list, nature of employment, etc.

The Council appreciates that no points scheme can cover all the factors and feels that the local knowledge of the parish representatives can go far in seeing that certain deserving cases are not overlooked. In consequence all applications are dealt with on a parish basis by the members for the particular parish. The Health Department is often asked to report on the conditions of applicants and due regard is paid to such reports which are attached to the housing application form. As a matter of policy, such reports, save in exceptional cases, are not made unless a request is received from a parish representative.

General :

All complaints of housing defects were investigated and, where necessary, letters requesting abatement were sent to the owners.

Many of the older cottages in the district are in need of repair and attention. Post war repair costs and pre-war rents provide a most serious problem for owners who wish to keep their properties in a satisfactory condition. During the year notices served under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 in respect to 14 cottages resulted in undertakings being received from the owners not to relet the cottages when vacated until they were put in a proper and satisfactory condition to the satisfaction of the Council. Eight of these cottages have since been demolished, the tenants having been rehoused by the Council.

It is suggested that the Council should formulate a definite policy in the matter of the unfit house which cannot be repaired at reasonable cost. The taking of action as mentioned previously appears to be the only really satisfactory step. Otherwise there is a danger that bad houses will become known as stepping stones to new houses.

Moveable Dwellings.

There are no large sites for moveable dwellings in this area. The majority of such dwellings in use in the area are modern trailer caravans sited singly in various places throughout the district. They are mainly occupied by persons, who despairing of obtaining a house, have provided themselves with this type of accommodation.

The conditions of such sites and dwellings throughout the district is quite satisfactory.

The Council have issued the following licences in respect of moveable dwellings :

| | |
|---|----|
| Licences in respect of moveable dwellings | 14 |
| Licences in respect of sites for moveable dwellings ... | 6 |

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The post war years can be said to have been characterised by a growing awareness of the need for clean and safe food. Many mysterious illnesses, particularly those of short duration, are due to food poisoning in some form or other. Such illnesses are rarely reported and so investigations cannot be made. Investigations, if they could be made, would undoubtedly spotlight the need for better methods of food handling.

There appears to be two schools of thought as to the way in which better methods can be obtained.

One is by exacting strict compliance with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act and the other by getting the trade to voluntarily undertake to observe the carrying out of approved methods of food handling.

There are difficulties in exacting strict compliance and, even when this is done, it is not so easy to ensure that food handlers make proper use of the facilities provided.

Again, so far as getting the trade to voluntarily undertake the observance of approved methods one finds that only the converted can and will do so.

It does seem that strict compliance followed by voluntary undertakings is the only sure method by which real improvement will be made.

The local authorities in the County of Holland have joined together, formulated codes of conduct and are endeavouring to increase interest in clean food by the County of Holland Clean Food Campaign.

Clean Food Certificates are issued to those premises complying with the codes of practice. Issue of Certificates is not made lightly but only after careful inspection.

The interest shown generally by traders and the public is disappointing and the progress that was hoped for has not been attained.

Clean Food Certificates have been issued so far to 21 premises. These include :—

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Butchers shops | 7 |
| Grocery stores | 7 |
| Fried and wet fish shops | 3 |
| Cafe and Guest House | 2 |
| Ice cream factories | 1 |
| Bakeries | 1 |

(a) **Milk.**

1. Milk Distributors.

10 milk distributors are registered by the Council.

4 premises are registered as dairies.

2. Designated Milk.

The sale of bottled pasteurised milk continues to increase throughout the district the milk coming from three large pasteurising establishments outside the area.

The following licences to use the special milk designations were issued during the year 1950. Such licences are issued annually expiring on the 31st December.

Pasteurised Milk.—3 Dealer's licences and 1 Supplementary licence.

Sterilised Milk.—1 Dealer's licence.

Tuberculin Tested Milk.—1 Dealer's Licence.

3. Sampling.

22 samples of bottled pasteurised milk were taken during the year. Results show that all the samples conformed to the standard of Pasteurised Milk.

| Number of Samples | Phosphatase Test | | Methylene Blue Test | | B. Coli. Tubes | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|-------------------|----|---|
| | Passed | Failed | Passed | Failed | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 22 | 22 | — | 22 | — | 11 | 10 | 9 |

The presence of B. Coli in such a large proportion of the samples however is not satisfactory. Reliance on the methylene blue finding alone may give rise to a false sense of security and prevent the elimination of contaminating points in the pasteurising plant, etc. which are often indicated by the B. Coli. test.

The result of all samples taken are passed to the licencing authorities of the areas where the milk is produced.

(b) **Ice Cream.**

Details of Register, 31st December, 1951.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number for manufacture and sale ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Number for sale only ... | ... | ... | ... | 38 |

There is only one manufacturer of ice cream in the district. The premises and methods are satisfactory and comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

Wrapped ice cream is sold at the majority of premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

The taking of samples is considered to play a vital part in the supervision of the manufacture and sale of ice-cream. Thirty-three samples were taken during the year and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory.

Details and results of the examinations are given below :

| Type of Sample | | Where Produced | | Methylene Blue | | | |
|----------------|---------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|---|---|---|
| Loose | Wrapped | E.E.R.D. | Outside Area | Provisional Grade | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 15 | 18 | 8 | 25 | 21 | 1 | 7 | 4 |

All of those produced in the area were found to be satisfactory. Notice of unsatisfactory samples was given to the local authorities of the districts where the ice cream was produced.

(c) Meat Inspection.

Commercial slaughter of animals for human consumption is not carried out in this district and usually only a limited number of carcasses are inspected—these being cottagers pigs half of which are to be sold to the Ministry of Food or animals slaughtered for emergency reasons.

As a result of the restrictions on the slaughter of animals for sale for human consumption, imposed by the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering No. 2) Order, 1940, etc., the Council have decided not to licence any of the slaughter-houses in the area.

(d) Food Inspection.

The following foodstuffs, generally in the possession of local tradesmen, were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

797 tins of various canned foods.

14 jars of preserves.

3 bottles of vinegar.

350½ lbs. of imported beef.

34 x 3oz. packets of processed cheese.

82 x 10 lb. tins of tomato Puree.

It is felt that reference must be made to the very considerable quantity of imported canned hams which were found to be unfit for human consumption. Upwards of 40 tins of varying weights from 1 lb. to 20 lbs., with a total weight of about 5 cwt. were involved. The hams came from a number of continental countries including Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Germany. Similar troubles were experienced over the whole country.

(e) Shellfish.

Reports were received from several inland markets to the effect that samples of mussels consigned from this area had been found to be bacteriologically unsound. Investigations were made and it was found that these mussels had come from certain grounds in the Wash. Mussels are not now taken from these particular beds for direct sale but only for relaying purposes.

It is understood also that the authorities making complaint have decided to ban the sale of untreated mussels in their areas.

The question of the provision of a Cleansing Station for shellfish has been given consideration by the Ministry of Agriculture and

Fisheries and certain of the port sanitary authorities bordering the Wash. So far as is known however, nothing has transpired in this direction. The matter is of importance and has been discussed on a number of occasions the last being in 1937 and reference was made to it in the Annual Report for that year.

(f) Bakehouses.

Inspections have been made of a number of these establishments and the tenants written where defects were found.

(g) General.

It has to be stressed that owing to insufficient staff it is not possible for an adequate number of inspections to be made of premises where food is prepared or sold.

Rodent Control.

The control scheme in operation in this district is approved by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and so ranks for grant.

A part-time rodent operator is employed on the work. No major infestations were found during the year and treatments were only in respect to minor infestations.

Regular attention was given to all the Council's dumps and sewage plants. Domestic and business properties were treated when-ever infestations were found to exist. The cost of all work at business premises being recovered from the owners.

Survey work throughout the whole district was carried out when necessary. Close liasion exists between the Pests Officer of the Holland County Council Agricultural Executive Committee and the Health Department. Additional surveys were made from November onwards to see whether the provisions of the prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations 1950 are being complied with.

It must be pointed out, however, that rodent control in this area does not in some ways present the same problem that it does in other parts of the country. This is, it is felt, due in no small part to the good husbandry of the farmers and the work carried out by the Agricultural Executive Committee's operatives.

Insect Control.

Disinfestation against insect pests is carried out whenever a request is made. A charge is made for such work. D.D.T. preparations are in general use in all control work.

Regular treatment of the Council's refuse dumps is carried out during summer months to prevent the breeding of flies, crickets, wasps, etc.

Factories Act 1937.

During the year 15 inspections were made of factory premises in the district. Four written notices were served in connection with insufficient or defective sanitary conveniences and one written notice in connection with lack of cleanliness. There were no prosecutions.

